

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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12

ACTION EB-11

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R 220400Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1744

INFO USDOC/WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 0820

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, AS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: NEW BUDGET INCREASES CIVIL AIR CHARGES

1. THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL TREASURER INTRODUCED THE 1973 BUDGET TO PARLIAMENT NIGHT OF AUGUST 21. MR. CREAN STATED IN HIS SPEECH THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO INCREASE THE RATE OF RECOVERY OF THE COSTS OF CIVIL AVIATION TO 80 PERCENT WITHIN FIVE YEARS AND THAT IT INTENDS TO RECOVER THE FULL ECONOMIC COSTS OF AIRPORT TERMINALS FROM THOSE OCCUPYING THEM. SPECIFIC CHANGES ARE:

A) AIR NAVIGATION CHARGES WILL BE INCREASED BY 10 PERCENT.

B) DUTY ON AVIATION GAS AND TURBINE FUEL WILL BE INCREASED BY FIVE CENTS AUSTRALIAN (APPROXIMATELY SEVEN CENTS US) PER GALLON.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE INCREASE AND USE RECOVERY PROVISIONS WILL BE BORNE BY THE AUSTRALIAN DOMESTIC AIRLINES, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT, IF THE RATE IS APPLIED ACROSS THE BOARD, INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES WILL BE CHARGED A\$2,800 TO LAND A 747 AT SYDNEY. HOWEVER, KEROSENE FOR OVERSEAS FLIGHTS WILL REMAIN DUTY FREE.

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Disposition Event:
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